

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.- 20. (Canceled).

21. (New) A method for processing queries, the method comprising:
sorting queries into a plurality of subsets along a dimension, wherein the plurality of subsets includes a first subset and a second subset;
generating a first concept network for the first subset of queries;
generating a second concept network for the second subset of queries;
performing a comparison between the first concept network and the second concept network; and
generating trend information based on the comparison.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the dimension is a time dimension.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the dimension is defined by reference to one or more demographic characteristics of users.

24. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the dimension is a geographic dimension.

25. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the dimension is a vertical dimension representing a user context of the query.

26. (New) The method of Claim 21, wherein the step of generating trend information includes performing a comparison of information from the first concept

network related to a unit with information from a second concept network related to the same unit.

27. (New) The method of Claim 21, wherein the step of generating trend information includes generating trend information for said unit relative to the dimension.
28. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
receiving a first query, wherein the first query contains one or more terms; and
using the trend information in formulating a response to the first query, wherein a response to the first query contains one or more records.
29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the method further comprises:
using the trend information to resolve an ambiguous term of the first query.
30. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the method further comprises:
using the trend information to suggest a second query, wherein the second query contains at least one term different than said first query.
31. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the method further comprises:
using the trend information to group the one or more records in the response to the first query.
32. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the method further comprises:
using the trend information to select an advertisement for display.
33. (New) A system for processing queries, comprising:
one or more processors;
a memory, operatively coupled to the processors;
a trend analysis module stored in the memory and configured to cause the one or more processors to sort a set of queries into a plurality of subsets along a

dimension, wherein the plurality of subsets includes a first subset and a second subset;

a clustering module stored in the memory and configured to cause the one or more processors to generate a first concept network for the first subset of queries and a second concept network for the second subset of queries; and

wherein the trend analysis module is further configured to cause the one or more processors to perform a comparison between the first concept network and the second concept network concept networks for at least two of the subsets, thereby generating trend information.

34. (New) The system of claim 31, wherein the dimension is a time dimension.

35. (New) The system of claim 31, wherein the dimension is defined by reference to one or more demographic characteristics of users.

36. (New) The system of claim 31, wherein the dimension is a geographical dimension.

37. (New) The system of claim 31, wherein the dimension is a vertical dimension representing a user context of the query.

38. (New) The system of Claim 32, wherein the trend analysis module is further configured to cause the one or more processors to information includes performing a comparison of information from the first concept network related to a unit with information from a second concept network related to the same unit.

39. (New) The system of Claim 32, wherein the trend analysis module is further configured to cause the one or more processors to generate trend information for said unit relative to the dimension.

40. (New) The system of claim 32, further comprising:
a response module stored in the memory and configured to cause the one or more processors to receive a first query, wherein the first query contains one or more terms, and to formulate a response to the first query based at least in part on the trend information, wherein the response to the first query contains one or more records.
41. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein the response module is further configured to cause the one or more processors to use the trend information to resolve an ambiguous term of the first query.
42. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein the response module is further configured to cause the one or more processors to use the trend information to suggest a second query, wherein the second query contains at least one term different from said first query.
43. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein the response module is further configured to cause the one or more processors to use the trend information to group one or more records in the response to the first query.
44. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein the response module is further configured to cause the one or more processors to use the trend information to select an advertisement for display.